under Article 124(3)(b) of the Constitution of India so that they receive substantial pension *vis-a-vis* the other judges of Supreme Court who are elevated from the High Courts.

A Bill, namely, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2005 has been introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha on 12.5.2005 to achieve the above objects.

Reservation for OBCs in Judicial Services

58. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no reservation for the persons belonging to OBCs in Delhi Judicial Services despite the fact that such reservation has been made by Government in all services including IAS/ IPS etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when, such reservation is likely to be made and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of Subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Therefore, the Central Government does not maintain data on reservation for the persons belonging to OBCs in Delhi Judicial Services.

The criticism of Election Commission

†59. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the Election Commission being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

constitutional body it is facing severe criticism for its arrangements for elections conducted recently;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering necessary reforms to strengthen the commission for enabling it to improve its functioning and to discharge its statutory duties;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Pending court cases

60. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) number of cases, civil and criminal pending in the Supreme Court and the different High Courts for over five years as on July 1, 2005;

(b) the vacancies of judges in each Court as on date; and

(c) the special steps, if any, taken and being taken to expedite disposal of the arrears, in the light of recent advice of the Hon'ble President of India to the judges to put in extra hours of work for expediting disposal of such cases and clearance of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) The proposal to introduce double shift system of courts was examined by the Government alongwith many other measures to reduce delays in the legal system. In view of the lack of support from the State Governments/ High Courts, the proposal for double shifts in courts has not been pursued further.